





ISHE IS A COUNTY ATTORNEY

**SHE IS A COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
**A Young Woman's Ability as a Lawyer**  
**Recognized in Nebraska.**  
**Miss Estelle Mae Davisson, who was**

Miss Estelle Mae Davison, who was recently elected to the office of county attorney in Brown county, is one of the best and one of the brightest lawyers in northwestern Nebraska. One of the surprises in the political kaleidoscope of



A black and white portrait of Miss Estelle Mae Davison. She is a young woman with dark, wavy hair, looking slightly to her left. She is wearing a dark, high-collared dress with a light-colored, possibly lace or floral, patterned scarf or shawl draped over her shoulders. The portrait is framed by a simple black border.

on her father's knee. Miss Davison is an able lawyer and a graduate of Michigan university. She attended the public schools of Sibley, Ia. In 1886 she came to Long Pine, Neb., her presence home, and finished her secular education in the high school. She then entered the law department of the state university at Lincoln, and two years later came out of it a full fledged lawyer. She was nominated as a fusion candidate and won easily. Miss Davison is the only woman in Nebraska—perhaps in the country—that has been elected to the position of county attorney.—*Cladron* (Neb.) Correspondence.

**Antiseptic Handkerchiefs.**

So much danger exists from contagion in the handling of infected clothing that for some time past an effort has been made to introduce handkerchiefs of paper and fiber. A substance composed of these materials is pressed into the form of paper pulp and run out into sheets, which would be soft, pliable, absorbent and inexpensive. Paper handkerchiefs might be made almost as cheap as toilet paper and would be found a most welcome addition to the equipment of invalids. Immediately upon being used they are thrown into the waste, destroyed, thereby avoiding the transmission of disease germs. Landreusse and others have frequently been inoculated with the bacilli of various maladies by contact in the washbasin. A scratch or any irritated spot on the skin

may become a lodging place for such organisms. The yellow and other resins of the paper and kerchief is strongly commended. If, in addition to the absorbent and inexpensive qualities, the pulp could be impregnated with some inodorous and efficacious antiseptic, the value of this new departure would be largely increased.—New York Ledger.

**Colors That Reign.**

Yellow in all its glory, in its various tones and semitones, is to rage in dress and millinery this winter. Red the shade of the traditional British coat heads the list of fashionable colors in England just now. Carmine blue has broken out all over France, rivaling russet in popularity. Green, the soft becoming, refined gray in cloth and velvet that the young empress seemed to favor next to blue and cream white during her short, brilliant stay in Paris. Vivid green is beloved by the Emerald Islanders and popular this year the world over. All these various dyes have been the rage of the past, and the latest journals announce the color chiefly favored by some particular country or noted personage, and therefore we are

**Reciprocity.** College fraternalism recently found another pleasant illustration at Oberlin. O. When Oberlin, which was the first college to open its doors to women on an equal footing with men, was just starting in its work, in 1833, Mary Lyon was a teacher in Miss Grant's school, in Ipswich, Mass. The teachers of this school, with their pupils, immediately responded to the call of Oberlin. One of them, of this sum Mary Lyon herself gave \$150. Four years later she founded Mount Holyoke seminary. This fall the women teachers at Oberlin gathered a contribution of \$1000 for the new Mount Holyoke college and sent it as a Thanksgiving recognition by the Oberlin faculty for the noble work done by Mary Lyon for the higher education of women.

**Helen Gould.**  
Miss Helen Gould has a superb library

of the best works of modern English and American authors. There are more than 5,000 volumes in the library at Lyndhurst, besides manuscripts of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Miss Gould is only 26 years old, but she has crowded many beautiful deeds of philanthropy into her short life. Many charities are the recipients of her bounty, but she gives quietly, and the world at large knows nothing of her largest benefactions.—New York Tribune.

**—Sun Plaiting.**

"Sun plaiting" is a new Parisian fashion of widening and "filling out" skirts. It is new and very stylish. Instead of the ordinary plaiting a skirt the plaits are put in at the waist, in the laps, widening out to the bottom until at the hem they are from 1 to 1½ inches wide. This holds the top skirt out beautifully.

**Much in Little**  
Is especially true of Hood's Pills, for no medicine ever contained so great curative power in so small space. They are a whole medicine.

**Hood's  
Pills**

Best, always ready, always efficient, always satisfactory; prevent a cold or fever, cure all liver ills, sick headache, jaundice, constipation, etc. 25c.

**OUR BABY.**  
BY H. M. W.

Our darling baby is one year old  
A story brief and quickly told;  
One milestone in life's journey  
One milestone—it may be the last.

One milestone—swift the moments  
The days, the months, pass swiftly  
Childhood is here with laugh and shout  
Then youth's bright years come.

Next manhood with its grand career  
Comes following—One may not  
The work of life, or great or small  
Must now be done, or not at all.

What lies before we may not see  
But, baby fair, we wish for thee  
Good health, bright joys, a heart

And friends sincere to stand by  
We wish for thee an honored name  
A place on earth's broad roll of life  
The wisdom coming from above  
The faith that surely works by love

We wish, indeed, that life may be  
The "wisdom, the peace, the joy" that go  
And when this mortal life is o'er  
Supreme delights on Heaven's shore

**HOLIDAY BOOKS AND READING**

Of making books there's no  
end, and there is a fasci-  
delight in each season's pro-  
that increases as the years  
are probably no gifts of more  
pleasure than nicely select-  
One of the most thoroughly  
volumes of the holiday seas-  
appropriate for all seasons" is "  
try of the Pointed Firs," by S.

Jewett, whose portrayal of New England scenes and scenery, and representation of life and character are so wonderful and true to nature. This new book of her authorship and Maine scenery in Miss Jewett's most charming and marked by the characteristics which make her writings so

delightful. It is a story of  
on the coast of Maine, and into  
to typical characters and se-

thoroughly natural and interesting, until they seem like living things. Its naturalness and simplicity, with wondrous charm.

The captivating new volume, *"The Little Girl of Long Ago,"* by Mrs. J. White, will delight thousands of folks at this holiday time, and as truly a household favorite as any year's book. "When Molly" This charming new story takes a delightful home (an artist's) sixty years ago, where we become acquainted with the dearest little girl in all the world. The book is so simple, so sincere, so full of its simplicity, and spirited and charming in style. It has an ever cover design, and two other illustrations. We hope this book will be kept on the shelves of the children as Christmas-wishes.

Many delightful books of the year appeared this year, none more easily enjoyable than "By Oak and Alder," a record of English days by Alice Cary, who describes in a most engaging manner many beautiful and picturesque parks of England, made famous by the genius of Mr. Gaskell, Charlotte Brontë and others. Such bright pictures of travel make this one of the most useful of recently issued books, for those who never visited the

Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, another delightful book, "Ma," possessing a wonderful and simple charm, its sweetness and sympathies and humor deeply appeal our sympathies and interest. The most interesting story is regarded of the best Mrs. Wiggin has ever written. "The Kindergarten Experience," "Miss Mary's Garden," "The Ter of Eden Place," "The Many Faces of Mother," "The Many Faces of Romance," "The Many Faces of Solitary," are touching in their simplicity and truth.

which have appeared in *Ladies' Journal* from the loving and generous pen of Mrs. A. T. D. Whitney, have been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. in book form. Few writings are more popular, more helpful and attractive than Mrs. Whitney's. Just the class of books to place in the hands of the "girlhood of to-day," full of truths and the highest, noblest teachings. This volume insures a wide sale.

And Mrs. Annie Field's charming "Authors and Friends," is read and appreciated for the work of its value and interest, with its pen of Longfellow, Emerson, W. Holmes, Mrs. Stowe and Mrs. F. A. M. Field's rare charm as a writer, well and widely known, and her own recollections of this group of friends form a work of great interest.

Much other attractive and interesting reading may be found in Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s new

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gift books for old and young  
some of the leading periodicals,  
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and fiction is well represented,  
cellent magazine being always  
with valuable reading.

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which will be grouped brief pa-  
the leading writers of the day,  
land literary subjects. The *New*  
land *Magazine* appears in tasteful  
day dress, and is filled with in-  
readable contributions, both pro-  
poetry being of a special inter-  
paper on Emerson is worthy of  
note, and presents various po-  
The current number is a veritable  
ary of good things, and contains  
strong articles. A. C.

the race of life has become in  
the runners are treading upon  
other heels. We be to him who  
to tie his shoe-strings. —*Corilye.*

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## Solomon's Department.

## OUR BABY.

BY H. M. W.

Our darling baby is one year old.  
A story brief and quickly told;  
One milestone in life's journey past;  
One milestone—it may be the last.

One milestone—swift the moments fly:  
The days, the months, pass swiftly by;  
Childhood is here with laugh and fun,  
Then youth's bright years come trooping on.

Next manhood with its grand estate  
Comes following—one may not wait;  
The work of life, or great or small,  
Must soon be done, or not at all.

What lies before we may not see,  
But, baby fair, we wish for thee  
Good health, bright joys, a heart that's true,  
And friends sincere to stand by you.

We wish for thee an honored name,  
A place on earth's broad roll of fame;  
The wisdom coming from above,  
The faith that surely works for love.

We wish, indeed, that life may hold  
The "wine, the oil, the beaten gold."  
And when this mortal life is o'er,  
Supreme delights on Heaven's bright shore.

## HOLIDAY BOOKS AND READING.

Of making books there surely seems no end, and there is a fascination and delight in each season's publications that increases as the years pass. There are probably no gifts of more permanent pleasure than nicely selected books. One of the most thoroughly delightful volumes of the holiday season (but appropriate for all seasons) is "The Country of the Pointed Firs" by Sarah Orne Jewett, whose portrayal of New England scenes and scenery, and reproduction of life and character are so wonderfully true to nature. This new book of Maine authorship and Maine scenery is written in Miss Jewett's most charming style, marked by the characteristic qualities which make her writings so distinctly delightful. It is a story of village life on the coast of Maine, and introduces us to typical characters and scenes in a thorough and natural and interesting manner, until they seem like living realities. Its naturalness and simplicity invest it with wondrous charm.

The captivating new volume "A Little Girl of Long Ago," by Eliza Orne White, will delight thousands of little folks at this holiday time, and become as truly a household favorite as her last year's book, "When Molly was Six." This charming new story takes us into a delightful home (an artist's) in Boston, sixty years ago, where we become acquainted with the dearest little maidens in all the world. The book is sweet in its simplicity, and spirited and entertaining in style. It has an attractive cover design, and two other illustrations. We hope this book will be kept in mind for the children as Christmas time approaches.

Many delightful books of travel have appeared this year, none more thoroughly enjoyable than "By Oak and Thorn," a record of English days by Alice Brown, who describes in a most entertaining manner many beautiful and picturesque parks of England, made famous by the genius of Mrs. Gaskell, Charlotte Brontë, and others. Such bright pictures of travel make this one of the most tempting of recently issued books, for not only those who never visited the places so vividly portrayed, but for many an old traveler as well. We think this may be termed one of the books that everybody will want to read.

Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin has given another delightful book, "Marm Lisa," possessing a wonderful and irresistible charm, its sweetness and simplicity, its pathos and humor deeply appealing to our sympathies and interest. This intensely interesting story is regarded as one of the best Mrs. Wiggin has ever written. "The Kindergarten Experiences of Miss Mary's Garden," "The Character of Eden Place," "The Might-Be Romance of Miss Mary," and "The Solitary," are touching in interest. "Friendly Talks to Girl Friends," which have appeared in *Ladies' Home Journal* from the loving and gifted pen of Mrs. A. T. D. Whitney, have now been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., in book form. Few writings are more popular, healthful and stimulating than Mrs. Whitney's; just the right class of books to place in the hands of the "girlhood of to-day," full of sweet truths and the highest, noblest teachings. This volume insures a wide reading.

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Much other attractive and desirable reading may be found in Houghton & Mifflin's publications, and their catalog and various book notes will suggest aid in the selection of holiday gift books for old and young. From some of the leading periodicals, one may select a gift well termed an "all the year around" remembrance. The long established *Atlantic Monthly* is one of the best of our American periodicals, publishing many strong articles on social and educational subjects, while poetry and fiction is well represented, this excellent magazine being always replete with valuable reading for all.

Two new departments are to be opened the coming year. The *Continent*, in which will appear short papers on contemporary subjects from the principal centers of thought in the United States, and *Men and Letters*, in which will be grouped brief papers by the leading writers of the day, on distinctly literary subjects. The *New England Magazine* appears in tasteful holiday dress, and is filled with excellent readable contributions, both prose and poetry being of special interest. A paper on Emerson is worthy of special note, and presents various portraits. The current number is a veritable treasury of good things, and contains many strong articles.

A. C. W.

The race of life has become intense; the runners are treading upon each other's heels. We be to him who stops to his shoe-strings. —Carlyle.

## Why Women Work.

Several decades ago, *Forney's Progress*, a Philadelphia publication of some consequence and much originality, raised the question "Why Women Work," and commented upon the curious fact that the world had yet to be convinced that women do not love work any better than men. They are credited with dependence, with a love of ease and luxury and when a salaried position is in question the woman has to take less because "she needs less." It cannot be because she spends less, for the extravagance of woman was dwelt upon by Solomon and Jeremiah, and it is a song that has never known a rest. The reason for the difference in wages is generally found to be in the assertion that women have few responsibilities, crowd into the paid occupations. There is an inconsistency here. If she loves ease, why does she work? If she spends more, how is it she needs less? The truth is that very few women from any other reason, but necessity. Here and there is one who loves independence, works for it, and deserves it, and here and there is another who would rather work than forego certain luxuries, and she earns them, but the majority of women work because they are our most reliable, sober and economical workers, for no woman with a family of little children gambles away their bread and butter, or no sister or daughter who is, of necessity, the bread winner, wastes what she earns, and comes home to a sad, hungry family, bringing them empty hands and an indifference to their needs.

A Simple Diet for School Children.

If early rising is insisted upon, a child should never be set any task before breakfast, especially in winter, and if it is not expedient to serve a full breakfast at half-past six or seven, the child should be given a bowl of hot milk and bread, or a cup of cocoa with a roll, or other light food; breakfast may be served later after the first exercises of the morning, and should be a substantial meal with animal food in the form of either fish or eggs, or cold meat of some sort, with porridge or wheaten grits, or hominy with milk or cream and abundant sugar, also bread and butter, with some sweets in the form of jam or marmalade, or stewed fruit. Dinner, which should always be served near the middle of the day, should comprise meat, potatoes, with one or two green vegetables, and some form of sweet pudding. The supper, it is generally admitted, should comprise only easily digested articles of food, and such substances as pastry, cheese and meat are better omitted. It should consist of either a porridge with milk or cream, or a light farinaceous pudding of rice, tapioca, sago, and the like, and some simple form of preserve, or stewed apples or prunes, or very light, plain cake, or a good bowl of nutritious broth with bread and crackers may be substituted for the porridge or pudding. It will sometimes be found best to serve this meal at seven or half-past seven o'clock, and if hungry the child may be given a slice of bread and butter and a cup of weak tea or a coffee, mostly hot milk, at half-past five or six o'clock. —*Louise E. Hogan in How to Feed Children.*

"The staff of life" is a term commonly applied to bread, but if life depended on the staff which some bread represents it would have a dreary outlook as to its continuance. Baker's bread, for instance, is not what bread should be, and in order to make as much as possible out of a given quantity of dough it is raised till there isn't much goodness left in it. And yet, think of the quantity of poor bread which is eaten, and then cease to wonder why there are so many chronic dyspepsias about. Home-made bread should be considered as absolutely essential to health in every household, and every cook should learn first of all to make it, and to make it good, too, for there is no need of having so much poor stuff going around under false pretences and taking the name of bread, to which it has no just claim.

Is there anything about the house which calls for more care and attention than the lamp—that is, if you wish to keep it in such condition that there will be no odor from it? There seem to be two varieties in lamps, the odorless and the odorless, and no matter how much care you bestow upon the former, they will smell when lighted in spite of you. But there are some lamps which smell only because they have been neglected, and how disagreeable it is to be obliged, for any length of time, to sit in a room with the air poisoned with such an odor. Look well to the lamps, then, and if you are the owner of one which will emit an odor in spite of you, get rid of it as soon as possible, and put one in its place which has no tendency in that direction.

What a wonderful amount of good is done to the clothes if they can remain on the line over night, after being washed. The night air seems to act as a whitener and a sweetener, and the clothes are much improved thereby. In this respect those living in the country have an advantage over their city cousins, for locations where one feels perfectly safe to leave the washing out over night are rare. Sometimes the risk is taken, and if the clothes are not stolen they will show the result of their exposure.

Cataract in the Head.

Is a dangerous disease. It may lead directly to consumption. Cataract is caused by impure blood, and the true way to cure it is by purifying the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures cataract because it removes the cause of it by purifying the blood. Thousands testify that they have been cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, and do not purge, pain or gripe. All druggists, 25c.

Country Uncle—"Bless you, my boy, there's no end of fun in the country. You must come up when it's the time for huckabees."

City Nephew (nervously).—"Deah me! I shouldn't care evah to huck a bee unless some one would first remove the sting."

Be good, dear child, and let who will be clever;  
Do noble things—don't dream them all day long;  
And so make life, death, and that vast forever.  
One grand, sweet song.

## Bagdad Portiers.

A word to the contemplating buyer of Bagdad portiers. They are offered in the shops at a very low price, but it will be seen that the stripes are narrow and the weight of the material not of good wearing quality. Such would be possibly for a bedroom portiere or to throw over a partly worn lounge in some room where its use would be light, but for real wear the wider, finer woven fabric should be sought.

These curtains are very useful, as they are almost the only couch covers that are more than the regulation 50 inch width. As the stripes can be bought separately it is possible to increase their width at libitum. As to range in quality, one was seen last week for \$2.05, and an hour later in a brick-brass shop a range valued at \$105. This latter had eight wide stripes, was almost of the thickness of plush and was beautifully fine and firm, with its harmony of coloring, in the main resembling the cheaper and conventional sort, was a revelation of its possibilities. —*New York Times.*

Trimmed Skirts.

"Are skirts to be trimmed?" is a question daily propounded to the dressmakers. The answer is invariably and emphatically, yes. The newest French models are decorated in many ways, some of them showing the old style flounces, others with accordion plaited, or of the edges and lines of cloth—all about five inches wide with no drill showing at the top, being either corded there or sewed to the skirt on the underside of the gathers at the top and then turned over. Some of the lighter wools are made with pointed overskirts, and again a Grecianlike drapery appears. Folds, fur bands, braiding, vandykes, creased edges and lines of cloth—all are in fashionable use, but, fortunately for the short, stout women, these decorated skirts have not come up for favor to the exclusion of the severely plain model with its simple, elegant finish and length giving lines from belt to hem. —*New York Post.*

Collars.

The stock collar, with its folds and finishing ruffles and bows, is not yet out of style, says a fashion writer, for it has proved too becoming to many throats and faces to yet be relinquished, but it is contesting for favor with neck trimmings and finishes of many different varieties—V-shaped and battlemented shapes ending well away from the face, arched models high at the back and rounding to nothing but a point in front, Medici, Directoire and Robespierre styles for demure and extremely picturesque, antique styles that give an air of great distinction to the gown and call for materials of the richest, garnitures of the most elaborate and costly and occasional most special, those including Stuart, Queen Bee, Henri Deux, Charles IX and Marie Antoinette replicas that enhance the artistic effect of the latest and rarest French evening toilets.

A Society Songstress.

Mrs. Inez Sprague, the second wife of Governor Sprague of Rhode Island, is achieving such success with her vocal music that she will, no doubt, become more famous than her predecessor, Kate Chase. The present Mrs. Sprague is a very beautiful girl, belonging to one of the E. V.'s of that state. As a young girl she was quite accomplished, singing well to her own accompaniment. Some two years ago she had her voice tried and by the advice of a master went to Paris to have her voice cultivated. She applied herself assiduously with the results. Her voice has a marvellously long range, with a full middle register and great dramatic power. —*Philadelphia Times.*

New York V. S. A. Officers.

The present officers of the New York State Woman Suffrage association are: President, Jean Brooks Greenleaf, 64 North Goodman street, Rochester; vice president at large, Mariana W. Chapman, 160 Hicks street, Brooklyn; corresponding secretary, Isabel Howland, Sherwood; recording secretary, Harriet May Mills, 926 West Genesee street, Syracuse; treasurer, Kate S. Thompson, 60 Allen street, Jamestown; auditors, Henrietta M. Barker, Cornelia K. Hood; chairman of committee on organization, Harriet May Mills; chairman of legislative committee, Maud S. Humphrey, Warsaw; superintendent of press work, Elvora M. Babcock, Dunkirk.

A Woman's Hospital.

The Woman's Homeopathic Medical club of Philadelphia has obtained a charter for a hospital to be known as the Woman's Southern Homeopathic hospital of Philadelphia. The institution is the outcome of a little disputation which was opened in 1893 by Amelia L. Hess, M.D., under circumstances that were anything but encouraging. The work grew so fast, however, that several moves to larger quarters had to be made in quick succession, and when still another became necessary the club came to the assistance of the founder.

Colored Corsets.

The white corset is rapidly disappearing, and the delicately colored ones, matching the petticoat of silk and the linings of the waist, are in favor. Black satin and black silk corsets are the favorites, with tiny dresden roses scattered over them and baby ribbon matching the shade of the buds, threaded and beaded all the length of the edges. Black lace finishes these beautiful corsets, which fit to perfection.

Kansas Women.

The Kansas Equal Suffrage association has decided to adopt heroic measures in regard to securing the ballot for women. The incoming legislature will be asked to grant suffrage to Kansas women. The state association has banded together to do all in its power to defeat every candidate for office who refuses to openly declare himself for equal suffrage.

Alice of mince pie made of the richest mince meat is a lunch in itself—an epicure's lunch.

**NONE SUCH MINCE MEAT**

is the right mince meat. Whole, some, fresh and delicious. For pies, fruit cake and fruit pudding. Sold everywhere. Take no substitute. Send name and address to the booklet, "None Such Mince Meat," a famous story.

MERRELL-SOULE CO., SYRACUSE, N. Y.

## Young Folks' Column.

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BY MADEIRA C. MAXWELL.

All night the snow had fallen  
Softly and silently down,  
Covering the busy city,  
And the quiet country town,  
Till it seemed that the All-wise Father  
In love would hide our sin,  
In a garment pure as that one  
Long worn by the Son of Man.

The Christmas bells were ringing,  
And joy pervaded the earth,  
And it seemed that the holy angels  
Sang about our Savior's birth.  
The windows were covered with pictures  
Of frost work, quaint and rare,  
All made with the fairy brushes  
Of the frost-elf, light as air.

I sat by the fireside thinking  
Of the holy, meek Christ-child,  
Of his low birth in a manger,  
And his manners, sweet and mild,  
When a shadow fell in the sunlight  
Half way across the floor,  
Then came a ring at the door-bell,  
And I opened wide the door.

A beggar stood before me:  
As I looked into his eyes,  
Lo! I heard a soft voice saying,  
"Tis I and in disguise."  
"Will you give a beggar a penny  
This chilly Christmas morn?  
For I've had nothing, sir, to eat,  
Since our dear Father sent me down."

My parents both a dead, sir,  
I can find no work to do;  
I started out to beg my bread,  
And the Lord sent me to you;  
I haven't a friend in the world, sir,  
For I had two dear children:  
"As ye've done unto the least of these,  
Ye have done it unto Me."

Then, quickly stepping backward,  
I said to her, "Enter here,  
And sit by the fire with me,  
And have some warm lunch, my dear,  
Then we'll talk of your circumstances,  
And think what may be done,  
For I see by your conversation  
That you're his 'little one.'"

And then she told the story  
Of a poor man's honest life,  
His death at the age of thirty,  
And his lonely child and wife;  
How her mother labored patiently  
To earn for both their bread,  
Till death and want overcame her,  
And she, too, now was dead.

So then I simply told her  
I was sorry for her plight,  
And that she need not leave us  
Even at prosperity's flight;  
For I had two dear children,  
And with them should be her home,  
She should teach them of our Father,  
And go out no more to roam.

And I have never been sorry  
For so gentle a child,  
For she has been a blessing  
In many a home more mild;  
And when she comes to thank me  
That her beggar life should cease,  
We look unto our Father,  
And He gives us both sweet peace.

Cornville.

RING, HAPPY CHRISTMAS BELLS.

This is the day that Christ was born!  
Hark to the music sweet and wild,  
That wakens glad hearts and forlorn  
To greet the blessed Child!

O silver bells that ring so clear  
All the wintry morning gray,  
Rouse up the sleeping world to hear  
That Christ was born to-day!

Ring till the children start to sleep,  
Sweet with the dream of joy to be,  
And clap their little hands and leap,  
And shout about in glee.

Ring till the sorrowful ones of earth—  
Whose lives are spent in toil and tears,  
That leave, alas! no place for mirth  
In all the year of care.

Shall hear the tender words he said:  
"Come unto me all ye that mourn!"  
And gather strength anew to tread  
The path his feet have worn.

Ring loud, ring sweet, O Christmas bells,  
And tune each waking soul to prayer.  
The while your joyful peals swell  
Through the wintry air.

Through misty dawn and sunshine clear,  
Ring till the callous hearts of men,  
Stirred with the thought of Christ so near,  
Grow warm and soft again.

Ring till the tender impulse turns  
To pitying thought, to generous deed;  
Ring till the eager spirit burns  
To utter all that need.

And while ye ring with heart and voice,  
Glory to God let all men say,  
And every living soul rejoice  
That Christ was born to-day.

HONORS TO THE BRUTE CREATION.

On the first night of Christ's life God honored the brute creation. You cannot get into that Bethlehem barn without going past the camels, the mules, the dogs, the oxen. The brutes of that stable heard the first cry of the infant Lord. Some of the old painters represent the oxen and camels kneeling that night before the new-born babe. And well might they kneel. Have you ever thought that Christ came, among other things, to alleviate the sufferings of the brute creation? Was it not appropriate that he should, during the first few days and nights of his life on earth, be surrounded by the dumb beasts, whose moan and plaint and bellowing have for ages been a prayer to God for the arresting of their tortures and the righting of their wrongs? It did not merely "happen so" that the unintelligent creatures of God should have been that night in close neighborhood. Not a kennel in all the centuries, not a bird's nest, not a worn-out horse on tow-path, not a herd freezing in the poorly built cow-pen, not a freight car in summer time bringing the bees to market without water through a thousand miles of agony, not a surgeon's room witnessing the struggles of fox, or rabbit, or pigeon, or dog in the horrors of vivisection, but has an interest in the fact that Christ was born in a stable surrounded by brutes. He remembers that night, and the prayer he heard in their pitiful moan he will answer in the punishment of those who maltreat the dumb brutes.

Dear Boys and Girls: I am a little girl 10 years old. I have never written for the *Farmer* before. I like to read the young folks' column very much. Father says he has taken the *Farmer* for forty years. Most little girls who write for the *Farmer* live in Maine, but I live in Nova Scotia. We had about 500 barrels of apples this year. I haven't many pets, but I have a cat that lies on the sofa a great deal; but she catches all the rats and mice that come near the house. Her fur is black. She is very pretty. One day when she brought a live mouse to the house, it sat up in front of her and washed its face, just like pussy does, and it looked very cute. I have 6 dolls, their names are Nellie, Jessie, Rita, Charbel, and Mary.

Dear Boys and Girls: I have not written for the *Farmer* for quite a while. I am a little girl nine years old. I study reading, arithmetic, geography, and spelling. For pets I have one cat and one dog; their names are Jim and Prince. I live on a farm of 80 acres. I will close by sending a conundrum: What did Queen Elizabeth take her pills in? —*FLORENCE SCAMMON.*

Saco.

Established 1827. Comes Every Week.

## THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.

The Companion of the Whole Family.

The list of those who will contribute to THE YOUTH'S COMPANION during the coming year, is as usual, long and brilliant. It includes not only popular writers of fiction, but also some of the most eminent naval officers, travellers and explorers, men of science and statesmen.

When Mr. Gladstone was Prime Minister he contributed to THE COMPANION, as did Mr. Blaine when Secretary of State. All the members of the present American Cabinet but three have written for its columns. During the coming year the following features of national work will be described by members of the national government:

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THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, 201 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass.

AN UMBRELLA KITE.

It Sails Higher and Puts Harder Than the Ordinary Kite.

A Frenchman has invented a wonderful umbrella kite, which will sail much higher and pull much harder than any ordinary kite that you ever saw. It calls it an aerophile. It has a wire frame very much like that of an umbrella, which not only serves to make the kite strong, but enables the owner to fold it up and carry it around in his pocket.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a SAVIOR, which is CHRIST THE LORD.

And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Dear Boys and Girls: This is the first time that I have written for the *Farmer*. My uncle has taken the *Farmer* for fifteen years, and he likes it. For pets I have two bantam roosters and a shepherd dog, and his name is Dash. Now I think that I will come to a close by sending a riddle: Round the house, round the house, and throws a black glove in the window.

Wells Branch.

Dear Boys and Girls: I will write for the young folks' column, as it is long since. My sister Alice works over to Mr. Reed's, and she likes very much. I have a cat, his name is Brownie, and he weighs 12 pounds. I think that the answer to Bertha Weber's riddle is a church, and the answer to Clara Webber's riddle is hand irons. I will close now. —*ETTA C. JAMES.*

So, Dresden.

Dear Boys and Girls: I have not written for the *Farmer* for quite a while. I am a little girl nine years old. I study reading, arithmetic, geography, and spelling. For pets I have one cat and one dog; their names are Jim and Prince. I live on a farm of 80 acres. I will close by sending a conundrum: What did Queen Elizabeth take her pills in? —*FLORENCE SCAMMON.*

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NATIONAL CAPITOL, WASHINGTON.

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of steel springs were required in this thirty yards of velvet and yards of fannel were used. The protectors are sent to his general agent at Louisville, where they are sent West and South. The large order came from Kentucky last week.

Mr. Danforth Newcomb, well known farmer of Hollis, committed suicide last year. Mr. Newcomb had been out of the family for two years, and a great audience Sunday morning, when he returned leaving his wife and children returned they missed him, and his wife found him lying on his face in the watering trough, where the cattle were watered. He had fastened a rope around his back. He had been in the family for six years. Mr. Newcomb was sixty years of age. He was at one time a fireman for the city of Louisville. He was a member of the

[illegible]







## Poetry.

For the Maine Farmer.

## ADVENT.

BY OLIVER E. DANA.

Day of days, old days more dear  
To make all other days more dear  
Suns may shrink from holly leaves,  
Yule-tide blossoms may not fade,  
Sean, O hark, thy calendar,  
See how thick thy Advent are!

Earth too little is, and low,  
Human hearts too dull and slow,  
All as once to let him in.  
Wait! For entrance he must wait  
Through the unfolding centuries,  
Every one a thought of his:  
Till the little opening eyes  
See him in the dim disguise  
Of the noblest-governed State,  
Lowly lives less desolate,  
Commerce whose white wings unfurl  
More for Christian, less for churl:  
Learning, art and science bent  
To discern the Christ's intent.

Year by year anew he comes  
To our hearts and to our homes;  
Comes, in childhood's innocence,  
In youth's brave obedience:  
In love's hallowing surprise,  
In the chime of sacrifice,  
In petition and bestowal,  
Gift and gladness and withdrawal;  
In the truth that beckons us,  
In the vantage faith has won;  
In deep thoughts the soul that stir—  
Comes all life's interpreter.

So, while winds of yule-tide blow,  
Come, and with us onward go!  
Let the trial or triumph be  
Doors that open wide for Thee;  
Let Thy birthday show us how  
Thou art with us here and now,  
Till Thy love, Lord, sheweth through  
Even the common deeds we do!  
Augusta.

## Our Story Teller.

## COWARDLY REVENGE.

"Now I thoroughly savers," remarked the old cattleman reflectively at a crisis in our last conversation, when the talk turned on men of small and cowardly measure. "I thoroughly savers that taste for battle that lurks in the defiles of folks' nature like a wolf in the hills. Which I reckon none that I, myself, am one of the cowardly people who ever bolted on a gun. But in my instincts—while I never justifies or follows his example—I clearly apprehends the emotions of a gent who convenges with another gent all similar an expression his views of him with his gun, an immediately precedes an admiring and die by the sword the opposition. Such is human nature unrestrained, on the same, while deplorable, is not surprising.

"But this year Olson I has in my memory don't have no such many emotions as goes with a gun lay. Which Olson I takes pleasure in sayin is a alien an a rank outsider, an no more born in this home of freedom than a Mexican. Olson is so cowardly he's even furtive, an for a low fulton, measly play he tell you what Olson does. It's shorly ornery.

"It all arises years ago, back in Tennessee, an gets its first start at a hawk which is owned by Olson an is downed by a gent named Hoskins—Bill Hoskins. It's this way:

"Back in Tennessee, in my dream wreathed youth, when anamies goes proposit about pernicious, a party has to build his fences bull strong, hawg tight an low high, or he takes results. Which Hoskins had to make his fences to conform to this yere role none—leastwise they ain't hawg tight, as is shown by one of Olson's hawgs.

"The hawg comes pirating about Hoskins' fence, an he goes through easy, an the way that invadin anamie turns Bill's potatoes bottom up an makes him a bit. He shorly looks Bill's lot. That's whatever.

"But Bill, perceivin of Olson's hawg layin waste his crop, reaches down a Hawkins rifle, 30 to the pound, an stretches the hawg. Which this is where Bill falls into error. Layin aside them deficiencies in Bill's fence, it's clear at a glance a hawg can't be held responsible. Hawgs is ignorant an tharfore innocent, an while hawgs can be what Doc Peets calls a caes belli they can't be regarded as a foe legitimate.

"Now, what the cowardly nature of this yere Olson begins to shine. He's ugly as a wolf about Bill coppers his hawg that a-way, but he don't pack the nerve to go after Bill an make a round up of them grievances. An he ain't allowin to pass it up none over-vengeed neither. Now, here's what Olson does—he assassinates Bill's pet raccoon.

"That's right, pard, jest massacred a pore confidant raccoon who don't no more stand in on that hawg killing of Bill's than me an you—don't even advise it.

"Now, follow me, says Olson, it's time to know about a raccoon. No? Waa, a raccoon's lik this: In the first place, he's plumb ingenious an ain't lookin for no gent to hold out yards or ring a cold deok on him. That's straight. A raccoon is simple minded that a-way, an his impressive trait is, he's meditative. Besides being naturally thoughtful as to his own affairs, I m, it say a raccoon is a heap melancholy. He jest sets an absorbent melancholy from merely bein alive.

"But if a raccoon is melancholy or gets wrapped in thought that a-way it's, after all, his own play. It's to his credit that once when he's tamed he's got a mountainous confidence in men an will curl up an go to sleep when you an shet both eyes. He's plumb trustful, an, moreover, no matter how mournful a raccoon feels or how plumb melancholy he gets he don't pester you with no yams.

"I reckon I converses with this yere identical raccoon of Bill's plenty times, when he gets blue an an' never remarks nothin to me except p'ltie generalities.

"If this Olson had been a dead gawp who regards him as a friend, he'd searched out a gun or a knife or mebbly a club an pranced over an intimidated Bill a whole lot. But he's too timid an too cowardly an afraid of Bill. So to play even he lines out to bushwhack this beless, un instructed raccoon. Olson figgers to take advantage of Olson's

cl'arly a loophole in a raccoon's constitution.

"Mebbly you never noticed it about a raccoon, but the fact is once he gets interested in a person he's right as to know he can't quit none until the project's a success.

"That's herds an bands of folks an anamies who's fixed sim'lar. They can start, an they can't let up. That's bull-dogs. They begin a fight easy, but the capacity to fight is left on 'em till dogs entire. Same about nose paint with gents I knows. They capers up to whis-ky at the beginnin like a kitten to warm milk, an they never do cease no more. An that's how the kyards falls to raccoons about plenty of things.

"Knowin these yere defects in raccoons, this Olson plots to take advantage tharof, an by playin it up on Bill's raccoon get even with Bill about that dead hawg. Which Bill wouldn't have took a drove of hawgs. No, indeed, not the whole fall round up of hawgs for all of west Tennessee an lose that raccoon.

"He's when Bill's over to Pine Knob layin in tobacco an nose paint an cornmeal an such necessities when Olson stands in to down Bill's raccoon. He goes injunjun over to Bill's an finds the camp all deserted, except the raccoon's thar settin battin his eyes mournful an lonesome on the doorstep. This Olson went down by the door an found the raccoon an strokes his coat an lets the raccoon search his pockets with his black hands until he gets that friendly an confident about Olson he'd told him anything. It's then this yere miscreant Olson springs his game.

"He's got a couple of crawfish which he's fresh caught at the branch. Now, raccoons regard crawfish as unusual good eatin. For myself, I can't say I deems none high of crawfish as viands, but of course raccoons is different, an the way they looks at it crawfish is pie.

"This Olson brings out his two crawfish, an fetchin a jar of water from the spring he drops in a crawfish an incites an aggravates Zekiel—that's the name of Bill's raccoon—to feel in an get him a whole lot.

"Zekiel ain't shy on the play. He knows crawfish like a gambler does, an so he turns his eyes to the sky, like a raccoon does when wrapped in pleasin anticipation that a-way, he plunges in his paw angets it.

"Of course once Zekiel acquires him the pore crawfish don't last as long as a drink of whiskey. When Zekiel has him plumb devoured, he turns his eyes on Olson, sort of thankful, an 'waits developments.

"Olson puts in the second crawfish, an Zekiel takes him into camp same as the other. It's now that Olson confis his play on Zekiel.

"Olson drops a dozen buckshot into the jar of water. Netherly Zekiel, who's got his mind all framed up to eat in crawfish, goes after the buckshot with his fore foot.

"But it's different with buckshot. Zekiel can't pick 'em up. He tries an tries, with his honest, simple face turned up to heaven, but he can't make it. All Zekiel can do is feel 'em with his touch an roll 'em about on the bottom of the jar.

"Now, as I remarks prior, when a raccoon gets embarked that a-way he can't let up. He ain't arranged so he can quit. Olson, who's plumb aware tharof, no sooner gets Zekiel started on them buckshot than, knowin that nature can be relied on to play her hand out, an'ters off to his wikeypop, leavin Zekiel to his fate. Bill won't be home till Monday, an Olson knows that before then, unless Zekiel is interrupted, he'll be even for that hawg Bill drops. As Olson knows that, he knows that nature can be relied on to play her hand out, an'ters off to his wikeypop, leavin Zekiel to his fate. Bill won't be home till Monday, an Olson knows that before then, unless Zekiel is interrupted, he'll be even for that hawg Bill drops. As Olson knows that, he knows that nature can be relied on to play her hand out, an'ters off to his wikeypop, leavin Zekiel to his fate. Bill won't be home till Monday, an Olson knows that before then, unless Zekiel is interrupted, he'll be even for that hawg Bill drops. 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# THING SATISFYING

Old Family Physician in 1850.  
time has indorsed for nearly a century.  
which possesses the confidence of the public to no great  
extent. For more than eighty years it has stood upon  
after generation have used it. The best evidence of  
its origin the sale of it is steadily increasing.

## anodyne Liniment

Fifty years ago this month, your father, Dr. Johnson,  
anodyne Liniment on sale. I have sold it ever  
since, and it has been a constant and popular remedy  
from JOHN B. RAND, North Waterford, Maine, Jan. 1891.

This certifies that Dr. A. Johnson, whose  
name is signed to every genuine bottle of  
Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, in the month of  
Jan. 1891, first left at my store some of the same  
I have supplied my customers with it ever  
since, (over fifty years) with increasing sales.  
JAMES KNOWLTON, Newburg, Maine.  
Only Bottle "Treatment for Diseases" Mailed Free.  
All Druggists, L. B. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

## Job Printing.

The Proprietors of the

## Maine Farmer

Reprinted in a Thorough Manner

## Job Printing Office

NEW PRESSES

## Modern Material.

And having secured the services  
of first-class Job Printers,  
under the charge of an  
Experienced Foreman,

They are now Prepared to  
Execute With Neatness  
and Despatch Every  
Variety of

## NEWSPAPER, BOOK

AND

## Mercantile Job Printing.

Pamphlets,  
Town Reports,  
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Handbills,  
Catalogues,  
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Orders by Mail Promptly Attended to.

## BADGER & MANLEY.

Williams Block, Water St.,  
Two Doors South of Kennebec Bridge,  
AUGUSTA, ME.

## Horse Department.

Vicious horses are usually made by  
vicious men.

Do not leave the care of the horses en-  
tirely to any help. If they are good and  
careful your watchfulness will gratify  
them; if they are careless and brutal the  
sooner you know it the better.

"Show me the horse," says a writer,  
"and I can tell you what his owner is.  
If he is kind to his horse he will be kind  
to his wife. Girls don't forget this."

As a contemporary well says, "good  
roads will increase the demand for  
horses," but that is no argument with  
the farmer whose horses will all be taken  
to pay his share of the expense of mak-  
ing good roads.

"Whether," says The Horseman, "a  
horse ever trots in two minutes or not,  
the very fact that such a thing is possi-  
ble makes the breeder look with pride  
upon his stock, and puts the trainer in a  
hopeful frame of mind. The highest  
education of the individual in his chosen  
work is necessary for the higher rate of  
speed in his pupil, the colt. Therefore,  
there is every incentive to aim high.  
The higher the rate secured the greater  
will seem the possibilities, and even  
though we should never reach the two-  
minute mark we should not stop the  
glorious work of breeding and educating  
our American trotting horse."

A veterinary surgeon, who has given  
the subject great thought and experi-  
ence, and largely with victims of cribbing  
and wind-sucking habits, declares that a  
horse having both or either of these  
habits should be classed as unsound, and  
that young horses often contract the  
habit from being stalled near a con-  
fined rubber or wind-sucker. The same  
authorities think the best preventive out-  
side of a specially devised apparatus is a  
roomy box stall, and covering the man-  
ger with wood, or saturating the same  
with bitter liquids, or covering tempt-  
ing projections with iron are utterly use-  
less to prevent the habit.

Good roads are largely a matter of  
good drainage. We do not mean by this  
that the graveling is unimportant, not  
that a hard, smooth, rounding surface is  
unnecessary, but that these are in great  
measure a part of the system of drain-  
age. The first thing to be attended to  
is to see that the open ditches have a  
constant fall and are provided with out-  
lets. Drains to be of any service to a  
road must carry the water away as rap-  
idly as possible; if they are merely re-  
ceptacles for water, the subsoil of the road-  
way absorbs it and is softened, and in  
the wet weather of fall and spring,  
traffic forces the gravel covering down-  
ward and the mud to the surface; re-  
sulting in the usual entirely impassible  
road.

A most successful breeder writes: "I  
have become convinced that improper  
feeding and watering of dams during the  
first week or two after foaling is the  
cause of nine-tenths, if not all, the deaths  
of colts from diarrhoea. It is not uncom-  
mon for a mare to drink from three to  
five pails of water at one time during the  
first few days after foaling. It is wrong  
to permit this. For a week or two be-  
fore foaling I note the quantity of feed I  
give my mare, and just as soon as the  
colt is born I reduce it one-quarter and  
never allow them to have over one pail  
of water three times a day. Since I have  
observed this rule I have not lost one  
colt from diarrhoea. I have not tried it,  
but believe the same treatment would  
apply to cows and prevent the death of  
many young calves from diarrhoea."

The season has arrived when the  
weanling colts should be specially cared  
for, and not be exposed to the cold rains  
and frosts of early winter. The founda-  
tion laid in the constitution of the colt  
determines the usefulness and value of  
the horse. There is too much careless-  
ness among the breeders in their grow-  
ing colts. If they are exposed to the cold  
rains and frosts, they are liable to con-  
tract the distemper and lose their  
growth during the winter, and the profit  
in horse raising, as in cattle raising, is  
largely determined by the winter, and  
this cannot be accomplished with out  
liberal feeding and reasonable protec-  
tion from the inclemencies of the  
weather. The colt should be taught to  
eat grain while following its dam, and  
be given a generous ration during the  
first winter, in order to insure constant  
growth.

One of the most difficult things for a  
man to do is to realize that the standards  
and requirements governing when he  
entered into business may all have  
changed, and that, no matter how good  
now, they may work positive injury  
now. This is especially true in the  
circle of horse breeding. Ten to fifteen  
years ago the general purpose horse  
sold at a profit. It was capable of fair  
service all round. Writers urged the in-  
crease of this class. It was easily pro-  
duced, did not call for special skill or  
application, and the farmers realized on  
the investment. To urge this policy  
now would be a positive wrong, and to  
follow this course would work ruin to  
any man. It indicates simply that times  
have changed, conditions have changed,  
and therefore practices must change.  
This is the sum total of the story. It is  
short, easily committed to memory, but  
it must be repeated until it governs  
actions.

Horses that can show any notable  
turn of speed are no longer a drug on  
the market, but no one buyer in  
one hundred wants an animal  
because it is bred a certain way.  
Feeding is desired, but speed and  
quality are the first great requisites.  
Will the demand continue, or is this a  
mere bubble, as the term is used in the  
speculative market? We are inclined  
to believe," says The Horse Review, "that  
it will not recede, but will be more than  
likely to increase. There has been no  
great amount of breeding done the past  
three years, the increase in 1890 not  
having amounted to as much as many  
suppose. Consequently the shortage

## Potash

is a necessary and important  
ingredient of complete fer-  
tilizers. Crops of all kinds  
require a properly balanced  
manure. The best

## Fertilizers

contain a high percentage  
of Potash.

All about Potash—the results of its use by actual ex-  
periment on the best farms in the United States—  
told in a little book which we publish and will gladly  
mail free to any farmer in America who will write for it.

GERMAN KALI WORKS,  
93 Nassau St., New York.

will not disappear until there is a re-  
vival of breeding, and the horses now  
matured will be required to do nearly  
all the racing for some time to come.  
Those who own good prospects are to be  
congratulated, for there is ahead of  
them the market that furnishes a margin  
of profit, and more than that, if they  
own something that develops into a  
high-class race horse."

The Buffalo Horse Gazette in speaking  
of the demand for high-class horses says:  
"There is a constantly increasing demand  
for high-class horses. For the past few  
weeks there has been few of this class  
brought to Buffalo and all markets, while  
the demand for them is greater than it  
was a month ago. And, as fall advances,  
this demand will increase. Though this  
class of horses is, at present, hard to  
obtain in the country, through their not  
being in proper sale condition and owners  
not caring to part company with them at  
prices dealers can afford to pay, still we  
think there are sufficient numbers of  
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ket. The demand for high-class horses  
is now the best it has been at any time  
during the past few years, and will con-  
tinue so. The increased demand for this  
class of horses comes from Eastern cities  
and large numbers, the best that can be  
obtained, are also exported. Prices for  
really good horses of this class are good  
and profitable to the breeder."

A potent factor in bringing financial  
loss to many who breed and raise horses  
is their failure to gauge correctly or ap-  
proximately the likes and dislikes of  
those who buy horses, says the Western  
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One of the shoals that the bank of many  
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## QUICK PROFITS.

A Boy's Improvement on the Usual Pro-  
gramme in Fairly Stories.

"Business" is the watchword of the  
day, and the small boy is developing on  
that line with a rapidity which aston-  
ishes the previous generation. But the  
practical side of his nature has not ob-  
scured the poetry of childhood. The  
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is a smile of pleasure on the face of  
the lad who remarked at breakfast:  
"I had a beautiful dream last night."  
"What was it?" his father asked.  
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## Catholic Priests and Marriages.

Marriage by the clergy was first posi-  
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Pope Gregory VII. The controversy,  
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council of Trent, in 1563, was the ec-  
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priests from forming marriage alliances.  
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## Poultry Department

Don't allow yourself to be deluded by  
the thought that there is only one breed  
or variety of poultry worth cultivating  
in these United States. It is only in the  
brain of the narrow-minded, self-con-  
ceited crank that such an idea finds an  
anchorage.

Dissecting some chickens for Thank-  
sgiving, a little curiosity was provoked  
to see what was in the gizzards for  
grinding material. Had the advocates of  
fine grit or gravel, or those who feel  
obliged to supply such because of the  
size of the machine, been present, a good  
object lesson would have been afforded.

While there were some smaller bits of  
gravel, the bulk was of broken crockery  
from one-half to three-fourths of an inch  
in length, and from a quarter to three-  
eighths in width. No large, sharp pieces  
of flinty rock could be found, and while  
the flock had had free range, the grinding  
material was deficient and broken  
crockery resorted to. Left to themselves  
and furnished a supply, the hens will  
always select the natural teeth, not the  
porcelain. The flock from which these  
chickens came had not made rapid  
growth, though fine in quality, and the  
thought came home that perhaps the  
absence of grit had been one of the  
causes preventing earliest maturity. If  
we but realize the significance of these  
seemingly trivial things, they would re-  
ceive more prompt and constant atten-  
tion than is now given.

## FARMERS' HENS.

How few farmers pay any attention to  
the housing of their hens? It is really  
pitiful to see the poor, miserable, ruffled  
looking birds on the farm, and the  
demand for them is greater than it  
was a month ago. And, as fall advances,  
this demand will increase. Though this  
class of horses is, at present, hard to  
obtain in the country, through their not  
being in proper sale condition and owners  
not caring to part company with them at  
prices dealers can afford to pay, still we  
think there are sufficient numbers of  
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## REPORTS TO STATE GRANGE.

Report of Committee on United States  
Department of Agriculture and State  
College.

Your committee on the United States  
Department of Agriculture and State  
College, and the Maine State College, and  
submit the following report:

The report of the Secretary of Agricul-  
ture for 1890, which has just been issued,  
indicates that at no time has the Depart-  
ment been doing better work than at the  
present. The report contains many in-  
teresting statements as to the growth  
and development of the Department, and  
the lines of work which it is being pro-  
secuted. There is no item in it which  
means more for true progress in the De-  
partment than the changes which have  
been made in the civil service. The De-  
partment of Agriculture has about 2500  
employees. In 1893 only 600 of them  
were in the classified service and subject  
to competitive examination. With the ex-  
ception of the Secretary, Assistant Sec-  
retary, the Chief of the Weather Bureau,  
some 500 rainfall and river observers in  
the employ of the Weather Bureau at  
various stations, all the force, in-  
cluding heads of departments, are now  
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